



BOROUGH OF WISBECH

and

WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY



ANNUAL REPORT

of

The Medical Officer of Health

M. DOREEN C. MARTIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.

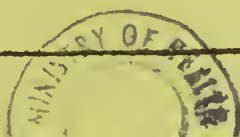
and

The Chief Public Health Inspector

D. BROOK, F.A.P.H.I.

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1965





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P U B L I C
H E A L T H
C O M M I T T E E

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR:

Alderman R.G. Curston

CHAIRMAN:

Alderman E.H. Miller

VICE CHAIRMAN:

Alderman E.N. Rigg

MEMBERS:

Alderman Mrs. B.M. Osborn

Alderman L.H. Rands

Councillor F. Alberts

Councillor Mrs. D. Anderson

Councillor A.E. Feary

Councillor G.G.J. Gibbs

Councillor Mrs. L.M. Moore

Councillor Mrs. E. Potter

Councillor Mrs. H.M. Walker

Councillor C.A.E. Woolnough

O F F I C E R S

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

H.D.C. Martin M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.
7 North Brink,
Wisbech. (Part Time)

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

D. Brook F.A.P.H.I.,
Exchange Square,
Wisbech.

Certificate of the Royal Society
of Health and Public Health In-
spectors Examination Joint Board.
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food
Royal Society of Health.
Smoke Inspector's Diploma, Royal
Society of Health.
Testamur Institute of Public
Cleansing.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

J.L. Fear M.A.P.H.I.,

Certificate of the Royal Society
of Health and Public Health In-
spectors Examination Joint Board.
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food
Royal Society of Health.
Smoke Inspectors Certificate
Royal Society of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

R. Sissons M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.,

Certificate of Public Health
Inspectors Education Board.
Dip. Inspector of Meat and Food
Royal Society of Health.
Smoke Inspectors Diploma, Royal
Society of Health.

MEAT INSPECTOR:

J. Keenan (from 3rd May, 1965)

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food
Royal Sanitary Association of
Scotland.
Scottish National Meat Diploma

TRAINEE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

V.J. George

CLERK:

Mrs. B.F. Kerridge

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1965.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Wisbech.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my third Annual Report on the Public Health of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1965.

On April 1st of this year, the Isle of Ely County Council united with the County Council to the south and Wisbech Borough became a district of the County of Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely. The Public Health Department find the same friendly relationship with the new County Health Department as existed with the old.

I have regretfully to report that once more the Borough Council decided to inform the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council that it did not favour fluoridation of the water supply provided by the Wisbech and District Water Board. This was decided despite the fact that the Consultant Paediatrician and all the local medical and dental practitioners took steps to urge the Council to support fluoridation. These practitioners all stressed their regrets that the children of this area should be deprived of the proven benefits of this simple, safe and economic measure.

In February, 1965, facilities at the North Cambs. Hospital Laboratory were extended to provide a service for the detection of cervical cancer by the examination of smears. This service is available to local practitioners and could, eventually, wipe out mortality from this type of cancer as it is eminently treatable in the very early stages which are detectable by smear studies alone.

We are fortunate in this area to have available such excellent facilities - facilities which compare favourably with any in the country. The value of this preventive measure will soon become more widely realised and the whole service will have to expand. While this is a Regional Hospital Board and County Health Department responsibility, it is of supreme interest to the local Health Authority.

I would like to record my gratitude to Mr. Brook and the whole staff of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation at all times. The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee have always shown deep interest in the work of the department and this I very much appreciate.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

M. DOREEN C. MARTIN M.B.,Ch.B.,D.C.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough	4,666 acres
Estimated resident population mid-1965	17,500
mid-1964	17,520
Sum realised by a penny rate	£ 3,369
Rateable value	£841,853
Number of inhabited houses	5,692

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births - 282</u>		<u>Wisbech Borough</u>	<u>Adminis-</u>	<u>England</u>		
		<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>trative</u>	<u>and</u>		
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>(adjusted)</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Wales</u>
<u>Total</u>	148	134	16.59		16.3	18.1
Legitimate:	134	122				
Illegitimate:	14	12				

Area Comparability Factor (Births) - 1.03

<u>Still Births - 4</u>			<u>Wisbech Borough</u>	<u>Adminis-</u>	<u>England</u>	
			<u>Still Birth</u>	<u>trative</u>	<u>and</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>**</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Wales</u>
<u>Total</u>	1	3	13.98		10.7	15.8
Legitimate:	1	3				
Illegitimate:	0	0				

<u>Deaths (all causes) - 229</u>			<u>Wisbech Borough</u>	<u>Adminis</u>	<u>England</u>	
			<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>trative</u>	<u>and</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>(adjusted)</u>	<u>***</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Wales</u>
<u>Total</u>	101	128	9.55	9.8	11.5	

Area Comparability Factor (Deaths) - 0.73

Deaths (Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion) - 0

Deaths (Infants under 1 year of age) - 7

			<u>Wisbech Borough</u>	<u>Adminis-</u>	<u>England</u>
			<u>Infant Mortal-</u>	<u>trative</u>	<u>and</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>ity Rate</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Wales</u>
<u>Total</u>	6	1	24.82	15.6	19
Legitimate:	6	1			
Illegitimate:	0	0			

Deaths of infants in first week of life - 3

Deaths of infants from 1 week to 4 weeks - 1

Deaths of infants from 4 weeks to 1 year - 3

NOTE: * Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1965 population.
 ** Rate per 1,000 Births (Live and Still).
 *** Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1965 population.
 **** Deaths of infants under 1 year, per 1,000 live births.

Vital Statistics cont'd

Causes of Deaths of Children under 1 year

Extreme Prematurity	2
Nephritis	1
Leukaemia	1
Pneumonia	1
Congenital Malformations	2
	<u>7</u>

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 39

Live Birth, Still Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates during past six years

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
<u>Live Birth Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	18.63	12.57	17.66	16.81	19.28	16.59
Isle of Ely	16.84	16.94	16.49	16.58	18.06	16.3
England and Wales	17.1	17.4	18	18.2	18.5	18.1
<u>Still Birth Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	47.46	6.47	13.6	6.94	15.01	13.98
Isle of Ely	29.34	17.78	13.51	19	15.54	10.7
England and Wales	19.7	19.1	18.1	17.2	16.4	15.8
<u>Death Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	11.07	13.11	14.64	10	10.12	9.55
Isle of Ely	10.82	10.89	11.39	11.68	10.99	9.8
England and Wales	11.5	12	11.9	12.2	11.3	11.5
<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	34.37	3.25	22.58	35	21.34	24.82
Isle of Ely	29.55	14.73	37	22.8	18.31	15.6
England and Wales	21.7	21.6	20.7	21.1	19.9	19

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely 16 Station Road,
Executive Council (from 18th April, 1965) Cambridge.

Clerk F.G. Lloyd Esq.

East Anglian Regional Hospital Board Union Lane,
Chesterton,
Cambridge.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer Dr. J.B. Ewen.

- (a) General: (1) North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech
(2) Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech
(3) Memorial Hospital, Peterborough
(4) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge
(5) Doddington Hospital, Doddington
(6) Barton Road Hospital, Wisbech (Aged Sick)

- (b) Maternity: (1) Bowthorpe Maternity Home, Wisbech

All primiparous mothers may be confined in hospital and other mothers may be admitted for obstetric abnormality. A few mothers are admitted for very difficult social circumstances.

- (c) Infectious Diseases: (1) Isolation Hospital, Peterborough
(2) Hardwick Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn

- (d) Tuberculosis:

The area chest physician holds a weekly clinic at North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.

In-patient accommodation is provided through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

- (e) Mental Illness:

Accommodation is provided (through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board) usually in Fulbourne Hospital. This is arranged directly by the Local General Practitioners.

- (f) Veneral Disease:

- (1) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge
(2) Peterborough Memorial Hospital, Peterborough
(3) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital

- (g) Medical Equipment Service:

Medical Equipment is provided on loan by the St. John's Ambulance Division and the Red Cross Medical Loan Depot by arrangement with the County Council.

COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES

(A) Midwifery, General Sick and Public Health Nursing

The nursing staff is employed by the Isle of Ely County Council either directly or by arrangement with the County Nursing Association under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Two full time midwives and relief midwives are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia, pethedine and trilene and the necessary machines approved by the Central Midwives Board are available for their use.

(B) Ambulance and Hospital Car Service

There are three ambulances garaged at Wisbech Motors Limited, Norwich Road, Wisbech.

(C) Infant and Child Welfare

The Infant and Child Welfare Clinic in the Horsefair is held twice weekly on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

The midwives hold an Antenatal Clinic for expectant mothers who are to be confined at home.

(D) School Minor Ailments Clinic

County Clinic, The Horsefair, Wisbech.

(E) Home Help Service

Available for confinements, cases of illness and for social reasons in the aged.

LABORATORY SERVICES

Public Health Laboratory Service,
Peterborough and District Memorial Hospital,
Midland Road,
Peterborough.
(Director: Dr. J. Glencross)

Public Analyst,
The Laboratory,
Tenison Road,
Cambridge.
(S. Greenburgh P.H.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.)

OTHER SERVICES

Health Education

All primiparous women are given the opportunity of attending relaxation and mother and baby care classes during their pregnancy. Recognised Women's Meetings e.g. Church Groups and Women's Rural Institute Meetings, occasionally ask for a speaker on Health Education, and such requests are readily complied with by the Public Health Department.

Lectures on food hygiene and the work of the department have been given by Mr. Brook and his staff to students at the Isle of Ely College.

Meals on Wheels

For some years now, the Womens Voluntary Service has provided "Meals on Wheels" service for the aged on 2 days each week. This plays an important part in helping to prevent deterioration of health in the very old who live by themselves. The food is cooked at The Metal Box Canteen and a very small charge is made to the recipients.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children under the age of 1 year who have completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria during the year	104
Between the ages of 1 and 4 years	160
Between the ages of 5 and 14 years	24
Boosters	249

Notifiable Infectious Diseases - 1965

	<u>Total cases</u> <u>Notified</u>
Smallpox	0
Scarlet Fever	8
Diphtheria	0
Pneumonia	0
Erysipelas	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0
Enteric Fever	0
Measles	68
Whooping Cough	19
Paratyphoid Fever	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0
Food Poisoning	1
Dysentery	5
Chickenpox	61

Notifications of Tuberculosis

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
-- 1	0	0	0	0
- 5	0	0	0	0
- 15	0	0	0	0
- 25	0	0	0	0
- 45	0	0	0	0
- 65 and over	2	0	0	0
Age unknown	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	0	0	0

Food Poisoning

Although only one case of food poisoning was officially notified during 1965, a total of eight cases were discovered, one more than the previous year. Seven of the cases occurred in two family outbreaks and the other was a sporadic case.

In the individual case the causative organism was not identified but in both the family outbreaks the organism *Staphylococcus aureus* was isolated. As I pointed out in my last report, this is an organism associated with the faulty handling of food as it is found in the nose and throat of a proportion of the population as well as in septic cuts and boils.

If food contaminated by these organisms is kept at room temperature for a period of time instead of being cooled or thoroughly heated, the organisms can multiply and be the cause of food poisoning.

The preventive measures include the covering of cuts with waterproof dressings, washing of hands and avoidance of habits such as nailbiting and smoking (who can avoid touching the lips when smoking ?) Persons suffering from septic infections are not permitted, by law, to work as a food handler.

Both of the family outbreaks may have been caused by infection in the home and this underlines the necessity for hygienic foodhandling by the housewife as well as in the shop, cafe and factory.

CAUSES OF DEATHS - 1965

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	6	9
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	2	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	7	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	6	5	11
Leukaemia, aleukeamia	1	0	1
Diabetes	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	14	25
Coronary disease, angina	26	26	52
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	4
Other heart disease	5	12	17
Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
Influenza	0	0	0
Pneumonia	25	24	49
Bronchitis	2	2	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	0	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ,.....	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	0	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	3	0	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	3	9	12
Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0
All other accidents	1	7	8
Suicide	1	2	3
Homicide and operations of war	0	2	2
TOTALS	101	128	229

Deaths from selected causes during the years 1960 to 1965

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Lung Cancer	3	7	8	8	11	9 (6)*
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	4	2	4	0
All other accidents	3	6	9	5	4	8 (3)*
Suicide	3	2	4	2	2	3 (2)*
TOTALS	11	16	25	17	21	20(11)*

I draw your attention to these causes of death as being essentially preventable. The number of deaths from lung cancer, of course, gives no indication of the number of cases diagnosed and successfully treated.

* Numbers in brackets are under 65 years old.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1965

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Wisbech.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my ninth Annual Report.

Throughout the year it has been possible to maintain adequate supervision over the several facets of the environmental health service.

Additional legislation affecting shop and commercial premises coupled with a higher throughput at The Chase Abattoir made it necessary to examine the staffing and arrangement of work in the department. The establishment was increased to include an Authorised Meat Inspector.

The following written texts set out the individual details of work involved. It was possible to continue progress through the Slum Clearance Programme and rehousing is no longer a long drawn out problem. Attempts to inspire Improvement of property did not prove satisfactory, despite widespread publicity including an exhibition at the local Trades Fair.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act has not revealed any critical problems. The safety aspect of the duties was a new facet confronting the officers.

Works to provide public sewers throughout the southerly portion of the Borough were almost completed. Intensive work by the staff has been directed to ensure that all properties are connected to the public sewer. It is my sincere hope that measures will soon follow to make sewers available throughout the northerly sections of the Borough.

I am grateful for the diligent work of the staff and thankful to my colleagues and the Committee for their co-operation and guidance.

I am Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. BROOK F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF DISTRICT

<u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:</u>	Complaints -	
	Housing	35
	Other	88
	Drains inspected and tested ..	359
	Sewer Connections and revisits	144
	Caravans	103
	Filthy and Verminous Premises.	25
	Infectious Diseases	96
<u>HOUSING ACTS:</u>	Inspected and recorded	106
	Housing Applications	22
	Improvement Grants	515
<u>FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:</u>	Slaughterhouses	496
	Food Hygiene Visits	124
	Food preparation premises	8
	Ice Cream Premises	1
	Dairy Premises	1
	Market Stalls	6
	Unsound Food visits	71
<u>RENT ACT:</u>	Inspections	0
<u>SHOPS ACT:</u>	Inspections	2
<u>OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT:</u>	Inspections and revisits	91
<u>FACTORIES ACT:</u>	Inspections.....	2
<u>PEL ANIMALS ACT AND ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT:</u>	Inspections	7
<u>CLEAN AIR ACT:</u>	Inspections and Observations..	60
<u>RODENT CONTROL:</u>	Inspections	82
<u>LITTER ACT:</u>	Inspections	0
<u>PORT HEALTH AREA:</u>	Inspections	42
<u>NOISE ABATEMENT ACT:</u>	Inspections	16

WATER SUPPLY

The Borough of Wisbech is a constituent authority of the Wisbech and District Water Board and a mains water supply is available to almost every dwellinghouse in the Borough.

The supply is obtained from shallow bore holes and the River Nar at Marham, Norfolk and has always been satisfactory after initial treatment at the source. A new reservoir at Bexwell is to be brought into use in 1966 and the Board is also developing two boreholes at Beechamwell with a capacity of 2 million gallons per day which, it is anticipated, will be made operative during 1967 and which should result in improved supplies.

The water is not liable to have any plumbo solvent effect and no contamination has occurred which called for special action by the department.

The number of houses in the Borough with no internal water supply is 23.

Town	16.	Rural Areas	7.
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Due to clearance of slum property the above figure shows a reduction on previous years and of the remaining 23 houses, 7 are vacant, one is to be vacated and not relet, one is in a declared C.F.O. and 8 are included in the slum clearance programme for the next five years.

Examination of Water Supply

The Manager of the Wisbech and District Water Board has made available regular monthly summaries of routine bacteriological samples taken in the Borough in addition to which the department has submitted water samples to the Public Health Laboratory, Peterborough for examination.

The samples taken by the Public Health Inspectors included mains water from houses, offices, caravan sites and public taps and drinking fountains. Bad samples from the kitchen tap of one house were investigated with the aid of the Water Board chemist and were traced to a faulty tap washer.

Improvements to the port hydrants were carried out during the year and screwdown caps provided to prevent the ingress of polluted surface water.

Examination of Water Supply cont'd

	Samples Submitted	Satisfac- tory	Unsatis- factory	Void
<u>Water Board</u>				
Chemical	100	100	Nil	Nil
Bacteriological	558	558	Nil	Nil
<u>Public Health Department</u>				
Bacteriological	51	44	2	5

Extensions to Mains

21" Main - Emneth Hungate to Wisbech	360 yds.	21"
	753 "	18"
	750 "	15"
Sefton Avenue	244 "	4" A.C.
	186 "	2" P.V.C.
Westfield Estate	220 "	4" P.V.C.
	46 "	2" P.V.C.
St. Peter's School	126 "	9" C.I.
	26 "	3" P.V.C.
St. Michael's Avenue	65 "	6" A.C.
Daws' Site off Norwich Road	233 "	3" P.V.C.
Coronation Bridge	<u>13</u> "	6" P.V.C.
Total main laid	<u>3,022</u> "	

New connections made in the
Borough during the year 1965 = 93

Typical Chemical Analysis

Tapwater 17th December, 1965, 11.25 a.m.

Bacteriological Examination

Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 24 hours at 37°C	0
Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 72 hours at 20° - 22°C	0
Bact. coli I count per 100 ml.	0
Coliform count per 100 ml.	0

Physical Characteristics

Appearance Clear and bright	pH.	7.1
Turbidity Nil	Odour	Nil
Colour Nil	Taste	Nil

Chemical Results expressed as parts per million

Free carbon dioxide	24.2	Aluminium (Al)	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	0.08	Calcium (Ca)	110.0
Ammoniacal nitrogen	Nil	Iron (Fe)	0.002
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.003	Magnesium (Mg)	4.04
Nitrate nitrogen	8.8	Manganese (Mn)	Nil
Nitrite nitrogen	Nil	Lead (Pb)	Nil
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	210	Sodium (Na)	16.7
Hardness as CaCO ₃		Zinc (Zn)	Nil
Total	292	Silica (SiO ₂)	6.5
Carbonate (temporary)	210	Sulphate (SO ₄)	42.7
Non-Carbonate (permanent) ...	82	Carbonate (CO ₃) ...	126
Residual chlorine	0.25	Chloride (Cl)	30.0
Total solids, dried at 180°C .	376	Fluoride (F)	0.05

General Remarks

The above results indicate a water pure and wholesome in character. It is suitable both chemically and bacteriologically as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

J.S. Collins

Chemist and Bacteriologist
Wisbech and District Water Board

SWIMMING BATHS

The Borough Council own and operate at Crabmarsh an unheated open air swimming pool with a capacity of 120,000 gallons. The source of the water used in the bath is the mains supply of the Wisbech and District Water Board and the treatment is by a Bell Bros. sand filter using soda and alumina prior to filtration and chlorination. The water in the bath is circulated once every 8 hours.

Twelve samples of water from this bath were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

The three school swimming pools which were in operation during the summer months were as follows:-

Peckover School	18,000 gals.	Cloth filters
Queen's Boys' School	56,000 gals.	Sand filter
Queen's Girls' School	39,000 gals.	Diatomite filter

All of the pools use hypochlorite solutions for sterilising the water.

The operation of these small pools is not always easy and close co-operation was maintained between this department and the respective schools. Advice was given where problems arose in connection with chlorine or pH values and where unsatisfactory samples were reported immediate checks were made to ascertain the cause if not already remedied.

My thanks are again due to Mr. Collins, the chemist of the Wisbech and District Water Board for his willing advice on the difficulties that arose in connection with the pools.

Sample Results

Pool	Results	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Crabmarsh	12	0
Peckover School	6	1
Queen's Boys' School	7	1
Queen's Girls' School	7	1

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1965 saw the completion of the main sewerage contract to serve properties in Ramnoth Road, Railway Road, Oldfield Lane, Weasenham Lane, Elm High Road and Westmead Avenue. By the end of the year over three-quarters of the privately owned properties that could avail themselves of connections to the sewer had done so. There was good co-operation between the inspectors and the builders and contractors concerned, although occasional trouble was experienced in the location of connections on the sewers. It may be a sound policy, in future schemes, to include in the main contract the laying of lateral branches up to the boundary of the properties concerned.

The emptying of cesspool cleansing vehicles continued to create problems arising from foul smells both at the point of emptying and from ventilating pipes further down the sewerage system. The admission of quantities of concentrated sewage into the sewers has also created problems at the sewage farm and, combined with the additional sewage created by new development and the laying of new main sewers, has caused overloading. This has necessitated the re-use of land recently given over to horticulture and in times of heavy rain diversion of surcharge into the River Nene.

All of this underlines my own opinion that the present method of sewage disposal is not satisfactory on public health grounds and it is pleasing to note that progress is being made on a preliminary report of the sewerage and sewage disposal needs of the area.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A regular weekly collection of household refuse has been maintained. The Council requires the owners of property to provide proper covered dustbins, which in the past has ensured at least one bin per premises. The traditional size of the bin is only adequate in two thirds of the households. More and more evidence appears of extra rubbish stored in any form of container, with the unhealthy prospects of additional fly breeding space. A larger type of bin may provide no problems of handling when filled with bulky refuse but if full of ashes it is unwieldy. The increase in bulk is even more evident in refuse accumulated at retail and commercial premises.

All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping along the disused Wisbech Canal under the Joint Scheme operated by the Wisbech Borough, Marshland and Wisbech Rural District Councils. Efficient mechanical equipment in the form of dragline and tracked dozer ensured a high standard of control.

Refuse Collection and Disposal cont'd

When the joint scheme was instituted, opinion was expressed that the six mile length of the Canal would provide a site for disposal for an unlimited amount of time. Already about a fifth of the area is now completely filled. The rate of filling may well accelerate so that by 1980 the asset will be extinguished. The tipping space could be made to last a much longer period if all the refuse were subjected to some form of separation and/or mechanical treatment.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The number of public conveniences was increased by one during the year to a total of nine.

Situation	Women	Men	
	W.C's	W.C's	Urinals
Barton Road	1	1	2
Cattle Market	2	1	2
Horsefair	3	1	6
Market Place	4	3	7
Mount Pleasant	2	1	3
Norfolk Street	3	2	4
Norwich Road	2	1	3
Old Market	3	2	6
The Park	4	2	4

The new convenience was the reconstructed and enlarged one in the Cattle Market and is also accessible from the Chapel Road car park. In my opinion its usefulness would be increased if the travelling public's attention was directed to this free car park with toilet facilities.

Seven of the nine conveniences are either fairly modern or are adequate in construction and facilities. The outstanding ones are that perennial thorn in the flesh, the Horsefair conveniences and the small one at Barton Road playing field. It is hoped that in the coming year the facilities at the new pavilion on the playing field will enable the existing convenience to be abolished. The Horsefair convenience is an eyesore and a target for vandalism and I hope that its replacement by a more hygienic structure will not be delayed too long by the bus station development.

PERSONAL CLEANSING

It was possible to give baths to ten persons at the Cleansing Station adjacent to the Public Health Department.

The disinfection and disinfection of bedding and clothing is carried out when necessary by arrangement with the engineer of the Clarkson Hospital.

The disinfection of rooms after infectious disease is rarely required nowadays but, if necessary, would be carried out by staff of the department.

MILK

Registration and Licensing

There are 23 names on the Register of Distributors of milk and 4 premises registered as Dairies.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

132 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Peterborough for examination.

Type of Milk	No. of samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test		Biological Test	
		Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
Untreated	26	22	0	0	0	0	0	19	0
Pasteurised	86	83	3	86	0	0	0	0	0
Sterilised	20	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0
TOTAL	132	105	3	86	0	20	0	19	0

Untreated Milk

Of the 26 samples submitted, 2 Methylene Blue Tests were declared void and 1 guinea pig died from natural causes.

The biological tests showed no evidence of Tuberculosis or Brucella in any of the 26 samples but, in 11 cases, the milk showed slight growth of Staph. aureus. In every case, the information was passed onto either the Public Health Authority concerned or the Divisional Veterinary Officer for action.

Pasteurised Milk

In 3 cases the samples failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test. Each of these failures was a sample from churns of milk delivered to a local factory canteen. Checks into the delivery routine resulted in subsequent samples proving satisfactory.

Milk Bottles

During the year six batches of washed milk bottles (12 bottles per batch) were submitted for a check on the efficiency of the bottle washing plant.

In every case the reposts were satisfactory.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

Three licensed slaughterhouses continued in operation during 1965.

On aggregate, taking cattle units as a factor the throughput increased by over ten per cent. The increase was concentrated at the largest slaughterhouse whilst the throughput at the two smaller units decreased. One pleasing feature at the main Abattoir has been a quicker pace of slaughtering, so there has been no material extension in the days and hours of slaughter.

No structural alterations were executed during 1965. Detailed discussions have taken place with the owners of the Chase Abattoir, in regard to proposed alteration. It is hoped to bring the premises up to a standard acceptable to European importing countries. In any case, advantage will be taken to re-arrange the system of slaughter and bring into use up-to-date hygienic practices of dressing cattle and washing down carcasses without using clothes or wipers.

An Authorised Meat Inspector was appointed mid 1965, with full time duties at The Chase and Oil Mill Lane. The public health inspectors are called upon for advice and support duties.

Particular attention has had to be paid to the inspection of cattle which had travelled long distances. Resting of such animals prior to slaughter is important, followed by controlled cooling of the carcasses. Bruising was noticed in a fair percentage of carcasses from animals that originated from Northern Ireland or Anglesey. Control measures are necessary as the meat may be despatched to depots 100 to 200 miles distant.

The full scale of charges were made for the meat inspection service. A contract was offered and accepted in respect of the Chase Abattoir for the year 1965/66 in the sum of £1,200.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection cont'd

Full implimentation of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 due to take place in October, 1965 was defered for one year by the Government. The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is still being pressed by some local authorities to make some provision in amended Regulations for the control of hours of slaughtering. Such a measure is long overdue if only to deal with isolated instances where traders consider it unnecessary to confer with local authorities.

Number of Animals Slaughtered during past 5 years

The details of slaughtering carried out within the Borough during the past five years is as follows:-

Year	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs incl. sows and boars	Total number of animals expressed in Cattle Units
1961	1,774	15	2,554	9,650	7,115
1962	2,072	16	2,384	9,538	7,323
1963	2,392	5	2,739	9,689	7,785
1964	6,864	11	7,220	9,781	13,202
1965	8,529	23	4,597	10,893	14,899

Licences to Slaughter and Stun Animals

19 persons were licensed to slaughter and stun animals.

* * *

There is no Knackers Yard within the Borough, although two such premises are available within 10 miles of Wisbech.

* * *

Number of Animals Slaughtered during the year ending
31st December, 1965.

	Cattle exclud- -ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Sows and Boars
Number killed	8,515	14	23	4,597	9,583	1,310
Number inspected	8,515	14	23	4,597	9,583	1,310
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned	9	1	2	8	22	13
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,625	8	5	49	993	121
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	19.1%	64.3%	30.4%	1.2%	10.5%	10.2%
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	47	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.02%	-	-	-	0.4%	1.5%
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total number of animals slaughtered:

24,042

Quantities Condemned:

Tuberculosis 912 lbs.
Other Diseases 34,075 lbs.

34,987 lbs.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

The following items of food were sent to the Peterborough Public Health Laboratory for examination.

Milk Powder 3

All of the samples were free from food poisoning organisms.

COMPLAINTS OF UNSATISFACTORY FOOD

During 1965 the department dealt with 11 formal complaints relating either to foreign bodies in food or unfitness of food.

In the following 4 cases the facts were reported to the Council:-

- Broken glass in school milk bottle
- Foil cap in school milk bottle
- Stone in scone
- Suspected foreign body in corned beef

In respect of the broken glass in milk bottle, the County Council followed up the case and instituted legal proceedings.

In respect of the foil cap in milk and the stone in a scone, the firms concerned were given formal warning that a repetition of the offence would result in legal proceedings being taken.

The Public Analyst reported that the "foreign body" in corned beef proved to be heart muscle.

The Council were also advised that certain batches of canned ham had been reported by the manufacturers to be under-processed. Retailers in the town were given necessary advice by the Department and there were no reported cases of the public receiving any unsound cans of this product.

The following matters were investigated by the public health inspectors who, after investigation, were satisfied that either no offence was committed or that the firms concerned had taken all possible steps to prevent a recurrence of the offence and that legal proceedings were not warranted in these cases:-

- Inferior physical quality of canned mutton in gravy
- Foreign object, resembling rubber, in butter
- Stale dough in loaf of bread
- Taint in cheese slices
- Insect in egg custard
- Undercooked fried cod fillets

A complaint of a dirty school milk bottle was referred to the County Council for action.

FOOD SHOPS

The following tabulated list gives the number of the various types of food premises in the Borough.

Bakehouses	12
Cafes	9
Grocers and General Mixed Stores	64
Greengrocers	11
Fishmongers	5
Fried Fish Shops	13
Butchers	28
Food Factories	14
Wholesale Fruit Merchants (Processors) ..	13
Flour Millers and Granary	2
Licensed Premises and Registered Clubs ..	64
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1
Market Stalls	37
Confectioners	15

List of improvements and unsatisfactory conditions remedied in food premises.

Sinks provided	1
Hot water provided	6
Wash-hand basins provided	9
Premises repaired	2
W.C's provided	3
W.C's repaired.....	3
Artificial lighting	3
Cleansed and redecorated	1
Ventilation	2

Food Hygiene

In addition to the regular checks of food premises there was a continuation of the improvement of facilities in public houses in the town. This work is largely proceeding hand in hand with regular repairs and alterations to the houses but, in time, should result in vastly improved facilities, including sanitary accommodation and hand washing arrangements for the customers.

Several premises where vegetable washing takes place were expanded during the year and required advice on food hygiene as well as drainage matters.

The fruit and vegetable auctions were kept under observation. During the year one of the buildings used for auction purposes was replaced by a new and more suitable building in The Chase, which improved the handling of the produce.

Food Hygiene cont'd

The retail market also received regular visits and the standard of food hygiene appears to be maintained although there is always room for improvement. In particular the traders do not seem to make the best use of the refuse bins provided and these may be seen overflowing whilst a few yards away there are bins standing practically empty.

Perhaps this points to one of the main obstacles to food hygiene - the human element. It is a continual task to educate food handlers in hygienic practices and I believe that many of them, engrossed in their daily task, forget that the commodity that they are handling is food which is to be eaten. Continual reminders by the public health inspectors when visiting food premises seems to be the only way of maintaining the standard.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

(i)	Number of premises to which the regulations apply	288
(ii)	Number of above fitted to comply with reg. 16 (wash-basins)	251
(iii)	Number of premises to which reg. 19 (sinks) applies	193
(iv)	Number of premises fitted to comply with reg. 19	193

UNSOUND FOOD

The following foodstuffs, apart from meat in slaughter-houses, were found unfit and surrendered.

Tins

Meat	119
Fruit and Vegetables	164
Fish	18
Macaroni	1
Total	<hr/> 302 <hr/>

Unsound Food cont'd

Various

Chickens	4
Ice Cream and Iced Lollies	341
Cauliflowers	432
Fish Cakes	204
Fish Fingers	100
Cockles	1 gallon
Frozen Foods	727 packets
Pork	76 lbs.
Fresh Fruit	14 "
Bitter Orange Peel	990 "
Onions	116 "
Peas	40 "

Routine inspections of poultry at the poultry auctions and in butchers shops was carried out in the days preceeding Christmas and resulted in the condemnation of four chickens because of tuberculosis, emaciation or decomposition.

Animal Food Factory

One animal food processing factory operates within the Borough. Dog and cat foods are manufactured on high speed canning lines. Meat, offal and fish are now handled only in the frozen state. The Department issues certificates to cover the exports of these products to various foreign countries. Regular inspections are carried out to ensure proper handling of the meat and offal and checks are made of the adequacy of sterilisation of the end product.

ICE CREAM

111 premises are registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 1 for manufacture, storage and sale and 110 for the storage and sale of ice cream.

48 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year with the following results:-

Grade I	32
Grade II	7
Grade III	7
Grade IV	1

1 sample was void.

Thirteen samples were from the only manufacturer in the town, 23 were from cafes and canteens and the remainder were from shops and mobile ice cream vendors.

Ice Cream cont'd

The greatest emphasis was placed on cafes and canteens because it has been found that samples from these places have the highest failure rate. This is due, not to the condition of the ice cream as delivered but to the storage of the ice cream cans without lids in fridges and most of all to contamination from the serving scoops. These should be stood in a sterilising solution which is frequently renewed and where this procedure has been adopted an improvement has been noticeable in the sample results.

The number of ice cream sales vans operating in the town appeared to be less than last year and as they operate mainly in the afternoon and early evening, special arrangements have to be made with the laboratory when samples are obtained. This accounts for the low number of samples obtained from these sources. The boom in soft ice cream with its attendant contamination risks appears to be waning and only one vehicle was usually to be seen in the town.

CLEAN AIR ACT

No contraventions of the Dark Smoke Regulations were recorded during the year but occasional verbal reminders were given to works engineers when it was noticed that more smoke than usual was being emitted from industrial chimneys.

Further complaints were received of smut nuisance from an industrial chimney, the preventive measures which had been taken proving unsatisfactory. Further investigations were made into the cause of the trouble and at the time of writing it is proposed to erect a new insulated stack of greater height.

During the year approval was given to the installation of three new furnaces as follows:-

- (1) One "John Thompson" package boiler at Agriform Fertilisers Ltd., Sandall Road, Wisbech designed to burn heavy fuel oil.
- (2) and (3) Two "Thermobloc" space heaters at Smedleys Ltd., Lynn Road, Wisbech designed to burn gas oil.

Although Wisbech is not in one of the "black areas" of the country where air pollution is heavy, it is pleasing to note that many of the flats and bungalows now being constructed by the Council are smokeless as they are heated by gas fired warm air equipment.

Clean Air Act cont'd

Up to the present time Wisbech has not been one of the many local authorities who measure and record the air pollution in their districts so we do not know the exact degree of pollution which is present. I believe it is now a fact that, due to the effect of the Clean Air Act on industrial boilers, more than half of the pollution in the country is from domestic fires and I can foresee the day when Wisbech will have to declare areas where no smoky fuel may be burnt so that we can maintain our reputation as a "clean" town.

HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE

The following Orders were made during the year.

Wisbech (Prospect Place No. 1) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1965.....	42 houses
Wisbech (Prospect Place No. 2) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1965 (Part V)	16 houses
Wisbech (Bowthorpe Road) Clearance Order, 1965 ...	8 houses
Wisbech (Victoria Place) Clearance Order, 1965 ...	8 houses

The Clearance Areas associated with the above Orders also contained 8 additional houses which were owned by the Borough Council.

A public inquiry into the Prospect Place Orders was held by an inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in November and the result is still awaited.

The number of houses demolished was less than last year due to the fact that most of the George Street and Agenoria Street area houses had been dealt with. The West Street area was almost completely demolished after standing vacant for some considerable time. This underlines one of the difficulties encountered when owners are left to demolish their own properties.

The number of families displaced was also fewer than last year but I was glad to see the completion of the Elizabeth Terrace warden block and the end of the year which will provide suitable accommodation for some of the occupants of unfit houses who it has not been possible to house before.

Estimated number of unfit houses remaining	830
Number of years necessary to deal with the above houses	11
Applicants on waiting list at end of year	240
Houses completed in 1965: Wisbech Corporation.	44
Private enterprise..	32
Total post war houses completed	1,541

SLUM CLEARANCE AND REDEVELOPMENT



BEFORE

N^{os} 1 to 12 ELIZABETH TERRACE



AFTER

"BOYDEN COURT" WARDEN BLOCK
(24 SINGLE BED-SITTERS, 4 DOUBLE BED-SITTERS,
AND WARDEN'S FLAT)

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses elsewhere
Return for the year ending 31st December, 1965

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED	Houses demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
<u>In or adjoining Clearance Areas</u>			
Houses unfit for human habitation	30	43	23
<u>Not in or adjoining Clearance Areas</u>			
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Secs. 16 or 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	12	5	2
Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	0	0	0
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED	Number		
Under Secs. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957 and 26, Housing Act, 1961	0	0	0
Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18 Housing Act, 1957	0	0	0
C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED		By Owner	By local authority
After informal action by local authority		20	0
After formal action under Public Health Acts		9	0
After formal notice under Secs. 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957		3	0

Demolition of Unfit Houses took place at:-

Clearance Areas - 30 (59)*

15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24 and 25 Agenoria Street.
4,5,6,20,21,22 Napier Terrace.
98,99,100,101,102 and 103 North Brink.
2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8 West Street.

Individual Unfit Houses -

(a) Formal Action - 10 (1)*

3 and 4 Masons Arms Yard.
31,33,185,187,228,230,232 and 236 Elm Low Road.

(b) Informal Action - 2 (0)*

2 and 3 Bartletts Yard

Other Council owned properties - 0 (5)*

* Figures in brackets are for 1964

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Constant vigilance was maintained over properties known to be let to more than one family. There were no cases of gross overcrowding although it was necessary to serve informal notices requiring the improvement in amenities at certain properties.

Close co-operation was maintained with the local Fire Prevention Department and suitable recommendations were made in respect of means of escape in case of fire from houses in multiple occupation and from certain high buildings.

It was necessary during the year to institute legal proceedings in one case and the defendant was fined £3:0:0 for failing to supply a secondary means of escape in case of fire.

IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS

The 1964 Housing Act brought a welcome increase in the maximum amount of grant available and a better system of calculating available grant in respect of hot water supplies. The system still remains basically simple and speedy to administer.

Owners of three bedroomed terraced houses are encouraged to make use of the increased grant for building on, or adapting the outbuildings into bathrooms, thereby avoiding whole blocks of sound property being converted into two bedroomed accommodation, unsuitable for growing families.

During the year the Health Department publicised grants on its own stand at the local Trades' Fair and followed up by showing the "Bronze Horses" film at a local cinema for a week.

The Council declared their first and second improvement areas during the year and the progress achieved by the end of 1965 is as follows:-

	<u>Wisbech No. 1</u> <u>(Cordon St.)</u>	<u>Wisbech No. 2</u> <u>(Opportune Rd.)</u>
	<u>Improvement</u> <u>Area, 1965</u>	<u>Improvement</u> <u>Area, 1965</u>
Total Houses	65	36
Improveable Houses: Owner/Occupied..	30	2
Tenanted	17	20
Improvement Notices Immediate	2	13
Served: Suspended	5	7
Applied for Grant: Owner/Occupied..	11	0
Tenanted	6	0
Works Completed	9	0

Improvement of Dwellings cont'd

After two years experience of improvement areas and two predominating factors have emerged:-

- (1) the reluctance of elderly people to consent to improvements being carried out. Primarily this is a financial objection by those living on pensions, but there is considerable resistance to modernise after "forty years of a cold tap and a kettle with the possible upset";
- (2) assuming that the purpose of the Acts is to prolong property life and postpone redevelopment, it is considered that legislation should not differentiate between tenanted and owner-occupied dwellings. In Wisbech there are no remaining streets of tenanted properties, but several potential improvement areas remain which contain only a few tenanted properties. Without compulsion on owner-occupiers, I feel that the work on improvement areas may well cease with the declaration of a further three or four areas and this will then leave some hundreds of owner-occupied houses still ripe for modernisation.

Two applications were received for Discretionary grants for the improvement of existing living accommodation. The following is a summary of the action taken on grants during the year:

Standard Grants

Applications received	43
Applications passed	43
Applications rejected - unfit	0
Applications withdrawn	2

Cases in which work was completed and the grant paid:-
33 applications for a total of £3,691.3s.8d.

Amenities provided with aid of grants:-

Bathrooms	27
Wash-hand basins	29
Hot water systems	31
Internal w.c's	31
Larders	13

Improvement of Dwellings cont'd

Discretionary Grants

Applications received	2
Applications passed	2
Applications rejected	0
Applications withdrawn	0

Cases in which work was completed and grant paid:-
3 flats from 2 houses for a total of £696.1s.0d.

Council House Improvements

Progress on schemes already approved by the Ministry continues at a steady rate and 26 council owned houses were improved during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

No Common Lodging House remains in the Borough. The last registered premises was purchased by the Council in 1963. Ten elderly male lodgers remain in residence along with the tenant and her husband, although originally registered for 22 lodgers. The premises are old, and should disappear in the next two or three years. The tenant is now an ageing person and in that same period is likely to realise the premises are too difficult to keep clean and tidy. It is fair to comment that many transient people make a halt at Wisbech either for one night or short seasons and find suitable lodging accommodation in the town. Unfortunately, there always remains a few vagrant type of person liable to create nuisances in vacant blocks of property awaiting demolition.

ALMSHOUSES

Address	Total number of separate dwellings	Number occupied	Remarks
King's Walk	12	Nil	Awaiting redevelopment.
Love Lane	5	Nil	To be demolished.
Stermyn St.	6	6	Scheduled for clearance 1968.
Canal Side	5	5	Scheduled for clearance 1968.
Lynn Road	5	5	Scheduled for clearance 1969.

There has been a reduction of two in the number of occupied almshouses.

Almshouses cont'd

In order to expedite the redevelopment of the King's Walk site two vacant dwellings in Stermyn Street were renovated to provide temporary accommodation for the last two remaining occupants of King's Walk. The Municipal Charities have under consideration the provision of a warden block at King's Walk, to house about 14 persons. The site will certainly be popular having regard to its close proximity to the Town Centre.

RENT ACT, 1957

(Return for the year 1965)

1. Number of applications for Certificates 0
2. Number of decisions not to issue certificates 0
3. Number of decisions to issue certificates -
 - (a) in respect of some but not all defects. 0
 - (b) in respect of all defects 0
4. Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the first schedule 0
5. Number of undertakings refused by local authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the 1st schedule 0
6. Number of certificates issued 0
7. Applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of certificates 0
8. Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates 0
9. Decision by local authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection 0
10. Certificates cancelled by local authority 0

CARAVANS

Residential

During 1965 there were four licensed caravan sites in operation within the borough, three at Osborne Road and one at Magazine Lane. The sites are capable of accommodating 110 vans.

New licences were granted in respect of the enlargement of the Broadway and Magazine Lane sites and much work has been done. The Magazine Lane site is not yet fully occupied but work has been completed in the construction of a new toilet and shower block and a new cesspool.

I consider that these four sites provide sufficient van spaces for the needs of this town. Caravans are mainly occupied by young couples or families who are hoping to get a Council house or to purchase a house of their own. There is obviously a limit to the number of such families as they all eventually are rehoused or move out and many of them cannot adjust themselves to caravan life and soon find other accommodation.

Itinerant Caravans

Again we had the problem of itinerant caravans and their associated lorries parked on spare land in the town and on the green droves. Not only did this occur at the ends of the picking season but also during the winter months and because of the nuisance caused it was necessary to move the caravans on several occasions.

It is my opinion that the solution to this recurring problem is not to continually chase these caravanners from one illegal site to another but to recognise that this is a human problem aggravated by the law as it stands today and our own prejudices.

The didicoy families, some hundreds of them, are a distinct part of our race and although most of us do not envy their way of life we must accept that this is the way that they wish to live. Many of their vans are very well equipped, many have television sets and very few seem to be without money. In spite of this they seem to shun "ordinary" citizens who in turn mistrust them.

The result of this is that when they are not engaged in fruit picking the only legal place where they may live, a licensed caravan site, is denied to them because neither do they wish to live amongst "ordinary" caravanners nor do the occupants or operators of sites want them.

Itinerant Caravans cont'd.....

During the year attempts were made to interest surrounding authorities in the provision of a site for itinerant van dwellers only but it was felt by them that the problem was not serious enough to warrant such a step. However, as I write the government have instructed County Councils to take steps to provide such sites and I hope that when these are established it will be a first step in guiding these itinerant van dwellers into a more settled way of life.

FACTORIES

Regular visits have been made to premises and houses in which work is carried out.

Factories Act, 1937 - 1959

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the local authority	14	1	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Secs. 7 is enforced by local authority	102	1	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	119	2	-	-

Factories cont'd

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of prosecutions instituted.
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness.....	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature ..	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences -					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
(d) disrepair	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to outworkers) ..	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

3. Outwork

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failing to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	2	None	None	None	None	None
Stringing labels	55	None	None	None	None	None

NON-INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

Shops Act Administration

The Shops (Early Closing Days) Act, 1965 came into operation during the year. The main provision of the enactment permits an occupier of shop premises to select his own Early Closing Day. The Early Closing Day may be altered but not more than once every three months.

Further, the Home Office distributed details of "Suggested Provisions for Amending The Shops Act, 1950". The Government are not in any sense committed to the proposals, but believe that retail distribution is a key factor of the economy and that there should be a movement towards greater flexibility in retail trading arrangements rather than further restrictions.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

A controlled approach was made towards implementation of the many requirements of the above enactment. Advice has been readily available. In several instances difficulty has arisen through the inability of a trader to persuade a building contractor to expedite the necessary works.

The following points of interest were noted during the year.

1. Staffing difficulties

During the year the appointment of an additional officer permitted the public health inspectors to devote more time to the enforcement of this Act.

2. Attitude of employers and employees

Employers generally accepted the need for improvement in conditions; several approached the department voluntarily for advice on the best means of meeting the legal requirements and most had made some attempt to bring their premises up to standard before an inspection was made.

Once employees had realised that the provisions of the Act were meant to benefit them, they were most co-operative in aiding the inspectors.

3. Dangerous machines

The machines most commonly met so far are food slicers in food shops. The horizontal feed types seem to be everlasting and have changed little in design but they appear to be being superseded by the gravity feed type. It is not always easy to decide whether a machine is adequately guarded

Dangerous machines cont'd

already, and what is the best method of providing extra guarding but Circular L.A. 7(4) is proving useful and coupled with experience, should resolve most problems. In small shops the owner generally appears to reserve the right to use and clean the slicing machine.

4. Ventilation

In actual practice the ventilation of most shops seems to take place through the opening of the shop door. Even if opening windows and hoppers are provided they are rarely used and in the summer, many shops keep their doors permanently open to attract customers. It is therefore difficult to decide what standard to adopt for ventilation openings.

5. Overcrowding

Overcrowding in offices has been found on several occasions and seems due to putting extra staff into an already fully occupied office or using small partitioned offices in warehouses.

6. Seats for sedentary workers

It has been noticed that typists and machine operators have seats provided but not of a design, construction and dimensions suitable for them and it has been necessary to require proper adjustable typists chairs.

A problem arises in the provision of seats for shop assistants in self service stores where the whole floor space is accessible to customers and there is no room for the siting of chairs or stools.

Agriculture

It appears that the requirements of the Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956 are reasonably well met in the agricultural holdings in the Borough.

It was found necessary to serve informal notices in respect of insufficient or unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at three premises in the Borough.

I regret that the Council is not empowered to enforce the provision of suitable wash-hand facilities at these premises.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Return for the year, 1965.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses incl. Council houses	All other including business premises	Totals of cols. 1, 2 & 3	
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Number of properties in local authority's district	88	5,692	1,312	7,093	176
2. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification	4	98	14	116	3
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common Rat: Major	3	1	2	6	3
Minor	1	86	8	95	0
Ship Rat: Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse: Major	-	1	4	5	-
Minor	-	10	-	10	-
3. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	11	82	180	273	4
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common Rat: Major	3	1	0	4	1
Minor	4	8	0	12	0
Ship Rat: Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse: Major	-	-	1	1	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
4. Total number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	7	16	166	189	1
5. Number of infested properties in secs. 2, 3 & 4 treated by local authority	11	119	16	146	4

WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

<u>Ships from</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Number Inspected</u>		<u>Number of ships reported as having, or having had, during voyage, infectious disease on board</u>
			<u>by the P.H.I.</u>	<u>by the M.O.H.</u>	
Foreign Ports	105	26,762 N.R. 62,585 Cargo	105	Nil	Nil
Coastwise	116	16,490 N.R. 39,897 Cargo	55	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	221	43,252 N.R. 102,482 Cargo	160	Nil	Nil

Character of shipping and trade during the year.

Passenger Traffic. Number of Passengers - Inwards.... Nil
Outwards .. Nil

Cargo Traffic. Principal Imports: Petrol, oil, potash, fertilisers, timber and pig iron.

Principal Exports: Bricks, coke breeze and grain.

Principal Ports from which ships arrive:

London, Stettin, Pateniemi, Immingham, Leningrad, Gdansk, Hull, Amsterdam, Hamina, Rotterdam, Wismar, Delfzijl, Kotka, Eire, Channel Isles and Antwerp.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year from ships from Foreign Ports.

This is not directly applicable as the port is not an "approved port" or a "designated approved port".

However, at the end of 1964, the approval of the Ministry of Health was obtained to an arrangement whereby the Port Health Inspectors of the Borough of Wisbech act as the agents of King's Lynn Borough Council in the issue of deratting exemption certificates for the Port of Wisbech.

During the year, three deratting exemption certificates were issued for ships from foreign ports.

Sanitation and Food Hygiene in the Port Area

Supervision was maintained over the water supplies to ships, the import of foodstuffs and the sanitary accommodation provided for port workers.

